



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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TAC minutes, 5/9/2012

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 5/9/12, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Jean Clark, Paul Kent, John Lentz, Evan Litwin, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith (partial), Ed Starr, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener.

Missing Members and Associates: Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise

Visitors Present: Police Chief Ryan, Brenda Starr (partial)

- Evan Litwin was welcomed as new associate member.
- Police Chief Ryan presented an award the Police Department Civilian Award to Ed Starr for his contribution to public safety in the town.
- Town Day. Scott will apply for permit, Elisabeth will pick it up before Town Day, Sat. September 15, 2012. Motion to approve spending \$25.00 on permit for Town Day. Voted unanimously.
- Mill Street flashing beacon at bike path crossing. Part of traffic mitigation for new residential project at former Brigham's factory. Wayne and Scott met with developer's traffic consultant, Bill Scully. Working on preliminary design. Flashing red will face bike path, yellow will face vehicle traffic.
- Mass. Ave. redesign. Meeting was held with Scott, Mike R., Phil Goff and Ed regarding changes to plans between 25% and 75% design. Wayne is looking at impact of various alternatives.
- Lake Street corridor. Scott reported that there have been vehicle traffic counts, and bike path counts of both pedestrians and bicyclists. Evening peak on bike path appears to be about 300/hour. Morning peak will be counted soon.
- Route 60/Mystic Valley Parkway. Letter to DCR has gone to Town Manager for signature.
- CLAMP. Moving into design phase. Chamber of Commerce has objected to removing parking from Mass. Ave. Working Group will probably meet soon. Paul asked to be included in next meeting.
- Old Mystic/Hutchinson. 3 accidents in 2011, two hitting stone wall at corner at night and the other very minor. No reflective warning sign is present. Corey will conduct tube counts.
- Town reports.
 - Wayne (DPW) reported that Forest Street to be finished end of June. National Grid is doing gas line work on Mass. Ave. between the Dunkin Donuts and the Heights. Wayne will look into whether sidewalks can be done simultaneously.
 - Laura (Planning) reported that Brigham's occupancy is projected to be in November. Can't occupy without traffic mitigation being complete. Town Meeting passed a warrant article requesting a parking study of Arlington Center, without appropriation of funds.
 - Corey (Police) reported he has started placing tube counters to assess impact of the Water/Spengler St. changes. The Police Dept. is looking at ways to increase bike enforcement, and talking to

Cambridge Police about methods.

- Schools.
 - John reported that Mustafa Varoglu, Brackett SRTS coordinator, spoke with the Tower Hill Group regarding the Hawthorne/Cedar/Fountain intersection. The area is made up of private ways, so Town can't provide improvements.
 - Thompson. There is an upcoming meeting on truck routes during construction.
- CVS. Follow up observations are complete. Ed submitted a draft report to ARB for TAC review. Traffic is fairly calm, bump-outs, crosswalks, signage are working well. A vote was considered, but crash data was desired before voting at the next meeting. Laura reported that Fire Chief has requested using some of the escrow funds to install an Opticom system at Jason/Mill. (Opticom is a traffic control system that provides a green light, and therefore intersection right-of-way, to emergency vehicles). Estimated to cost \$8000. General discussion as a good safety move but no vote.
- Flag Program. Had a review meeting with Working Group and School reps. Very positive overall. School reps want to keep them. Loss of about 50 flags at 3 locations since September. Would like to expand pilot to more locations for next school year.
- Sidewalks around schools. Developing a list for each school. Wayne requested that the list be prioritized by school.
- Jason Street cut through traffic. On Selectmen's Agenda for May 14.
- Mass. Ave./Appleton St. Wayne is working on list of issues for CTPS.
- Oakland/Gray. Cost estimates received for 2 alternate designs. \$150,000 to \$200,000. Sidewalk adds \$50,000. Could happen this year if there are sufficient funds.
- Downing Square. Finalizing design, resolving issues with handi-capped ramps.
- Thermoplastic Crosswalks. Working group is reviewing condition of existing crosswalks, and new locations as well.
- Administration.
 - Minutes of 4/11/12 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
- Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Meeting Materials:

- Meeting Packet for May: Agenda, 5/9/12; Minutes of 4/11/12; Members of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, Working Group List, 5/9/12; BoS/ARB Request Status, 5/9/12; Individual Action List from 4/11/12; Status of TAC Approved Actions, 5/9/12; Memo to Arlington Redevelopment Board from Transportation Advisory Committee Re. Post-Build Evaluation of CVS Impact on High School Pedestrians and Traffic, dated May, 2012 (draft report); Memo to Board of Selectmen from Transportation Advisory Committee Re. Petition for Travel Restrictions on Jason Street, dated April 19, 2012; Memo to Board of Selectman from Transportation Advisory Committee Re. Information: Crosswalk at Herbert Road and Lake Street, dated April 14, 2012; "Intersection of Water Spengler and Mass. Ave." dated 5/4/12;